



**Lt. Governor Skillman Announces the Protection of more Watersheds**  
*State program making agriculture strong for the future*

Today I joined top agriculture leaders to announce the expansion of Indiana's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). I signed Indiana's first CREP agreement 5 years ago to protect water quality and wildlife on about 7,000 acres. This expansion nearly quadruples that area to 26,250 acres.

By expanding the existing CREP program we will be able to preserve 11 watersheds in all or portions of 65 Indiana counties. Coupled with DNR's recent conservation efforts protecting more than 68,000 acres at Muscatatuck Bottoms and along the Wabash River, Indiana is emerging as a leader in land conservation.

Our farmers and producers are the first and best environmentalists. They work closest to our land and water, and depend on it for their livelihood. Naturally they understand how important it is for us to preserve and protect our resources.

Eligible producers can continue to sign-up under existing rules for the expanded program – starting today. Participants will enter into 14-15 year contracts to receive incentive payments, annual rental payments and cost share assistance. We will contribute about a fifth of the overall cost through cash and in-kind services.

State government is a proud partner to USDA in funding the CREP expansion. The program will offer increased incentives per acre of land, and it will focus on the practices we know to be effective to create and restore wetlands across the state.

This is the kind of initiative that will move our state forward and protect our future. Together we will work toward the ongoing development of a strong and diverse agriculture industry. The preservation of the land and water makes it all possible.



***Lt. Governor Skillman announces an expansion that will protect more watersheds in Indiana at the Starkey Farm in Brownsburg today.***

*Becky Skillman*



*Lt. Governor Skillman oversees the Indiana Department of Agriculture, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, the Office of Energy Development, the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, and the Office of Tourism Development. For more, visit her on the web at [www.lg.in.gov](http://www.lg.in.gov).*